

Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, October 13, 2009
At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: Steve Cardon, Kris Dighe, Beri Kravitz, Dominique Lorang-Leins and Tolu Odunlami

Absent: Seth Adams, David Davis, Faith Klareich, Christine Davidson-McCord,

Guests: Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Meeting Commencement

The meeting was convened at 7:35 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 8, 2009 meetings were reviewed and unanimously approved (Lorang-Leins/ Steve Cardon).

Environmental Management Report by Mark Charles

Recruitment – Environmental Management has begun interviews to fill the vacant environmental specialist position previously held by Nate Wall. Over 50 highly qualified applicants have applied. It was noted that no offer could be made until after the Mayor and Council took action on the proposed budget reduction package scheduled for consideration near the end of the month.

Stormwater – City Code Chapter 19 - Environmental Management is working diligently on a draft ordinance and regulations to comprehensively rewrite the City's stormwater law. The Maryland Department of the Environment has required the all Cities and Counties in the State to revisit and improve their existing law by May 2010. Environmental Management expects to provide an advanced draft to the Commission at its November meeting.

Green Buildings – City Code Chapter 5 – The Community Planning and Development Services (CPDS) Department has the lead on this project with Environmental Management in support. The previous draft has been substantially revised, particularly with respect to the retrofitting of existing buildings. It is scheduled to be released to the public in early December and be the subject of a public hearing before the Mayor and Council on January 11, 2010. Susan Swift, CPDS Department head will attend the November meeting of the Commission and explain the changes.

Meeting with the Bowie Environmental Advisory Committee – This meeting, scheduled in Bowie for December 3, 2009 will bring the Commission and Advisory members from Bowie, Annapolis, Rockville and Gaithersburg together to discuss operational procedures, and issues of common interest. At the time of the Commission meeting, no

agenda was available. Since that time Bowie has transmitted an agenda which was emailed out to Commissioners. At present, Kris Dighe, David Davis and Steve Cardon have indicated that they can attend. Final attendance will be determined at the November meeting and communicated to Bowie.

Retreat Follow Up

The Commission identified the following actions that need to be taken:

- Recruit more committee members
- Improve relations with the Mayor and Council
- Assist EMD in the development of the next version of the Sustainability Strategy
- Solicit more environmental award nominations
- Have a stronger presence at both Hometown Holidays and Science Day
- Develop a neighborhood association outreach plan
- Develop more understanding of the City's recycling program and prepare to bring the message of recycling opportunities to the neighborhood associations and area schools
- Consider approaching commercial establishments about recycling opportunities
- Engaging engineering and planning on an audit of the City's environmental permitting programs

Filling the Commission Vacancy

There is a vacancy on the Commission and a need to recruit non-Commissioners for the Committees. David Davis, currently a student representative on the Commission is interested in the vacancy. If the Commission endorsed his candidacy, the vacancy would then move to the student representative. This would change the way we will solicit interest. [Note, since the meeting, Mr. Davis has indicated a preference to remain in his student representative seat.]

Committee Reports

Sustainable Development and Energy Committee – No Report

Watershed Protection Committee

- EMD has hired Amanda Matheny for the part time FOG and Stream Assessment position.
- A watershed exhibit has been installed at the Croydon Creek Nature Center. The exhibit opening was attended by Mayor Hoffman and Councilmembers Marcuccio and Britton.
- Public Works is providing the Committee with the City's salt policy and procedures.
- *Save Our Streams* training is scheduled for October 10 (Rock Creek), October 18 (Cabin John) and October 24 (Watts Branch).

Outreach and Education Committee

- David Davis drafted a recruitment story for Rockville Reports that was rejected by the Communications Office. In the future, such articles should be submitted to the Environmental Management Division.
- At its last meeting, the Committee discussed the display materials it needs covering water quality, sustainability, recycling and general environmental content and messages. Final recommendations on the display materials and graphical content will be forwarded to Environment Management staff as soon as possible.
- The Committee is also interested in doing an analysis of the City's environmentally-related websites and making suggestions for improvement. Environmental Management is undertaking a similar review and would welcome the Committee's thoughts.
- Purchases needed for future display booths previously transmitted to Environmental Management have been purchased (\$200). Approximately \$1,000 remain in the budget.

New Business – The Commission should consider:

- Establishing a “reuse” network for residents
- Identifying some type of reward for residents reaching zero refuse
- The Commission should send Faith Klareich a *Resolution of Thanks*

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 10, 2009** at 7:30 pm at **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.**

Post-Meeting Action Items:

- Heather to provide electronic version of the retreat notes
- Mark will check with the City Clerk to see if there are Commission or Committee applicants on file.
- Mark to verify whether the student representative is in the Commission Charter or is just tradition.